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BOOK REVIEWS

THE LAW AS A VOCATION, by Frederick J. Allen, Assistant Director, Bureau of Vocational Guidance Division of Education, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., published by Harvard University, 1919: pp. VIII, 83.

The purpose of this book is, to quote from the preface, "to present a clear, accurate, and impartial study of the law in the hope of offering assistance to those who are attempting to choose a career or who are about to enter upon the profession. This necessitates a review of the nature of the law, present day legal conditions, personal and educational requirements, the dangers and disadvantages incident to practice, the high professional demands made upon the lawyer, the varied fields of service open to him, his probable earnings and emoluments,—in a word, all that has a distinct and important bearing upon the law as a vocation."

It is apparent that within the limits of 75 pages of text all this could at best be done in only a sketchy and superficial fashion. By "the nature of the law" the author evidently alludes not to the nature of law itself—review of which would be a considerable undertaking—but rather to some phases of the profession of law. The presentation of this, through limitation of space, does not compare in completeness and value with Julius H. Cohen's, "The Law—Business or Profession?" Neither does the discussion of dangers and disadvantages incident to practice rank in informational value with the 39 pages of Theron G. Strong's chapter on the Modern Lawyer, in his "Landmarks of a Lawyer's Lifetime". The personal and educational requirements are catalogued rather than discussed. All that is said is sound and worth while so far as it goes, but it obviously can not go very deep.

It is not impossible that the book meets a real need in the field of vocational choice—a subject with which the reviewer is but empirically acquainted,—but it could hardly be of more than suggestive value to anyone seeking to analyze the merits and disadvantages of the profession of law.

JOHN B. WATTE.

THE WORLD WAR AND ITS CONSEQUENCES, by William Herbert Hobbs, Professor of Geology, University of Michigan, with an Introduction by Theodore Roosevelt, New York and London, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1919; pp. XIV, 446.

Here we have a book by a professor of geology, which deals with history, politics, diplomacy and war, and all with a voice as certain as though the author were speaking on his own science. That such a book should be reviewed in a legal journal may be justified in these times by the intense interest for all of the subjects discussed, not to mention the legal flavor of the book suggested by the reference in the opening sentence of the text to "Lawyers" as "accustomed to speak of ultimate or fundamental, as opposed to